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LB 451

Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I came into this this morning with open mind and wanting to seek answers and try to understand the rationale for the veto, and the rationale of Senator Thompson for strongly wanting to override the veto, and I still have a couple of questions. And I...while I'm talking, I'm going to mention these so that Senator Thompson or someone can be ready to give me some answers. But it's clear in the Governor's message with his veto that part of the rationale is that these seven new officers, coupled with the six currently performing intake duties, would total only thirteen probation officers to conduct the intake assessments for the entire state. That's what that message says. That would give me concern. What I heard Senator Hilgert say was something entirely different than that, and that was to the effect that there would possibly be as many as 200 people trained to do these intakes. And I can tell you, as a past county attorney, there's nothing more frustrating than being called and being asked to make decisions about a juvenile that you know nothing about after you have them through your system four or five times, you do know something about them, but many times it's a first impression. And if you're asked to make the call on what to do with the juvenile at one o'clock in the morning, that is a very, very tough call. On the other hand, particularly in the more remote parts of the state, of which part of my district certainly falls in that category when it comes to juvenile services as well, I don't want to take away what little availability of service there might be, whether it be a juvenile judge, or a county attorney. At some points the level of frustration is such that the officer simply needs some direction and so does the juvenile at that point. So I would ask Senator Thompson to succinctly clarify for me whether we will have 13 intake officers or whether we will have a bunch more than that. Please, if you could, brief me on that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: (microphone malfunction) ...discuss this with Ed Birkel who's chief of probation, and he is in the Rotunda if you would like to walk out and talk to him after, in case I'm